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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/436,756	11/09/1999	MASARU ISHIHARA	0010-1054-0	7106

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OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC
FOURTH FLOOR
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

FONDA, KATHLEEN KAHLER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1623	18

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The request for deferral/suspension of action under 37 CFR 1.103 has been approved.

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because although bacterial celluloses are known (see for example the references cited on page 1 of the specification), the prior art does not teach or suggest ribbon shaped microfibrils having the dimensions specified in claim 1. Furthermore, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest production of a bacterial cellulose by culturing cellulose-producing bacteria in a culture medium containing a cell division inhibitor. The Examiner notes that references A and N on the accompanying form PTO-892 are not prior art to the instant application.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Papers relating to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. The number of the fax machine for official papers in Technology Center 1600 is (703) 308-4556. Any document submitted by facsimile transmission will be considered an official communication unless the cover sheet clearly indicates that it is an informal communication.

INTERNET INFORMATION: Secure and confidential access to patent application status information is now available; see

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<http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> for more information. Also, <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/comp/fin/clonedefault.htm> may be used to pay patent maintenance fees, pay non-filing application fees, and maintain USPTO deposit accounts.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kathleen Kahler Fonda, at telephone number (703) 308-1620. Examiner Fonda can generally be reached Tuesday through Friday, and on alternating Mondays, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. If the Examiner cannot be reached, questions may be addressed to Supervisory Patent Examiner Gary Geist at (703) 308-1701. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.


Kathleen Kahler Fonda, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1623